

Evaluations Backgrounder:

A Summary of Formal Evaluations of Afterschool programs’

Impact on Academics, Behavior, Safety and Family Life

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Afterschool programs have been operating for decades in communities across the country, and federal investment in afterschool has increased dramatically since the mid-1990s. However, even more investment in the field of afterschool, which includes before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs, is needed to keep up with the growing demand. Parents and voters overwhelmingly support afterschool and want to see more afterschool opportunities for children and increased funding for programs. As public demand and need for afterschool have grown, so too has the demand for accountability. This is particularly true for afterschool programs that utilize public dollars. After all, where tax dollars flow, so must accountability to taxpayers.

Fortunately for afterschool advocates, a steady stream of afterschool evaluations are showing important gains for children, not only in terms of academic achievement but also in terms of safety, discipline, attendance and avoidance of risky behaviors. In addition, researchers have found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement, an important building block for student success. This updated evaluations backgrounder focuses on the impact of afterschool programs on academic outcomes, student behavior and parental concerns about children’s safety.

The Landscape of Afterschool Evaluations

A number of different types of evaluations have been conducted over the last several years, assessing various aspects of afterschool programming. Some evaluations seek to gather data on whether programs have been structured as they were originally intended, how well they have done at meeting attendance and staffing goals, how they “fit” in the school environment and more. Others explore student outcomes: the effects afterschool programs have on the children who participate in them, their parents and even the communities at large. Both types of evaluations are of great value to afterschool providers and to policy makers, and when taken together the two types of studies help identify the particular program elements and approaches most critical to accomplishing program goals.

Evaluations also differ by virtue of who conducts them. Many programs self-evaluate, providing useful data and satisfying the needs of their various stakeholders: parents, funders, partnering businesses, local public officials and so on. But for academics and large funders—the federal government, state governments, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the William T. Grant Foundation or The Wallace Foundation, for example—more exacting standards and greater independence is often required. Independent evaluations commissioned by such entities and focused on outcomes are the primary subject of this document.

The studies included in this backgrounder are just a few of the numerous evaluations of afterschool programs completed in recent years. To learn more about evaluations of afterschool programs and to search a more comprehensive database of studies, visit the Harvard Family Research Project website at <http://www.hfrp.org/out-of-school-time>.

Summary Lessons from the Data

In reviewing the studies included in this background, a few key themes emerged. The data and conclusions from these studies suggest that quality afterschool programs have a positive impact on a number of measures of student academic achievement, positively affecting behavior and discipline and helping relieve parents' worries about their children's safety.

Additional details and citation information for each study are included in the tables that begin on page 14.

Academic Outcomes Summary

Improved School Attendance and Engagement in Learning

- Teachers of students participating in Wisconsin 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) programs reported more than two-thirds improved their class participation, 60 percent saw improvements in their motivation to learn and 55 percent improved their behavior in class. Teachers also reported that 48 percent of students improved in volunteering for extra credit or responsibility. (2014)
- An evaluation of 83 out-of-school time programs in Oakland, CA, found that most participants reported that their program helped them feel more confident about moving onto the next stage in school—80 percent of elementary school students say that their afterschool program helps them to feel ready to go to middle school, 70 percent of middle schoolers say that they feel more prepared to go to high school, and 95 percent of high school students report that their afterschool program helps them believe that they can finish higher school and 89 percent feel more confident about going to college. Ninety-four percent of participants' parents reported that their child's attitude toward school had improved since joining their afterschool program. (2014)
- A 2013 report by the American Institutes for Research found that students attending Texas' 21st CCLC programs, regardless of participation level, improved their school day attendance levels. Students with low levels of participation in the program decreased their absentee rate by 14 percent and students with high levels of participation saw a 15 percent decrease. Similar results regarding improved attendance among participants were reported in the Texas State Education Agency's 2009 evaluation of the 21st CCLC programs. Additionally, students in the program were more likely to be promoted to the next grade. Students with low

Research Findings

(organized by outcome):

Academic Outcomes Summary:

- Improved School Attendance and Engagement in Learning
- Improved Test Scores and Grades
- Students at Greatest Risk Show Greatest Gains
- Frequency and Duration of Afterschool Participation Increases Benefits

Behavioral Outcomes Summary:

- Keeping Children Safe
- Positive Impact on Children's Self-Concept and Decision Making
- Helping Working Families and Encouraging Parental Participation
- Helping Keep Kids Healthy
- Reducing Truancy and Improving Behavior in School

and high levels of participation increased the likelihood of being promoted to the next grade by 43 and 47 percent, respectively. (2013, 2009)

- During the 2011-2012 school year, 70 percent of Beyond the Bell participants—located in Los Angeles, CA—had a 96 percent or higher school day attendance, compared to 56 percent of non-participants. Students who regularly attended the program were found to have even better school day attendance than students with lower levels of participation at the afterschool program. More than 7 in 10 students (73 percent) attending the program for more than 33 days had a 96 percent or higher school day attendance versus 64 percent of students who attended the program six to 13 days. (2013)
- A statewide evaluation of New Hampshire’s 21st CCLC afterschool programs found that students who attended the afterschool programs showed improvements in their academic performance during the school day. Teachers reported that 64 percent of students who attended the program were more successful in finishing their homework and 60 percent of students increased their level of class participation. Ninety-eight percent of principals reported that 21st CCLCs improve students’ attitudes toward school and 93 percent of principals believe the afterschool programs boost students’ motivation to learn. (2012)
- Eighty-one percent of New York City’s Beacon Community Centers’ students said the Beacon helped them finish their homework more often, 78 percent felt better about their school work because of the Beacon, and 78 percent believed the Beacon helped them earn better grades. (2011)
- Students enrolled in the variety of afterschool and summer learning programs offered by Project Exploration were found to graduate from high school at a 95 percent rate—nearly double the overall rate of those attending Chicago Public Schools. Additionally, 60 percent of former participants who are enrolled in a four-year college are pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)-related fields, and 60 percent of former participants who graduated from college earned a degree in a STEM-related field. Researchers also found that Project Exploration’s youth-science approach increases students’ self-confidence and verbal, writing and leadership skills. (2011)
- High school students attending California’s EduCare afterschool program attend school for an average of three days more per year than those not enrolled in the program. Additionally, 91 percent of EduCare participants graduate from high school, compared to just 61 percent of matched non-participants. (2011)
- In a study of New York City’s Beacon Community Centers, 80 percent of students believed they were finishing their homework more often because of the Beacon they attended, and 75 percent believed the Beacon helped them get better grades. (2010)
- A five-phase evaluation of the Citizen Schools program found that former participants of the 8th Grade Academy consistently continued to attend school more often through ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade compared to a group of matched nonparticipants. This was true among all participants with low and high levels of exposure to the program. (2010)
- Chapin Hall’s study of Chicago’s After School Matters program found that students who participated in the program missed fewer days of school than their classmates, and students who participated most frequently failed fewer core academic courses (English, math, science and social studies). The finding is particularly noteworthy because the program is not aimed at improving academics. By creating an incentive for students to attend school regularly and giving them something to look forward to after school, researchers concluded that After School Matters helped improve academic performance. (2007)
- Absences among North Carolina’s Young Scholars participants decreased by 48 percent when they began participating in the afterschool program. (2006)

- Evaluations of LA’s BEST by the UCLA Center for the Study of Evaluation revealed that students’ regular school day attendance improved once they began participating in the afterschool program. Students also reported higher aspirations regarding finishing school and going to college. In a longitudinal study, researchers at UCLA found dropout rates among LA’s BEST students were significantly lower than the overall district dropout rate. (2005)
- Pathways to Progress students in St. Paul, MN, experienced dramatically better school attendance: participants attended 18.4 more school days and missed 9.6 fewer school days than their nonparticipant peers. (2004)
- Policy Studies Associates’ five-year evaluation of The After-School Corporation (TASC) afterschool programs found that regular school day attendance for pre-K to eighth grade levels increased for participants compared to non-participants—especially for students in grades 5-8—and attendance for seventh and eighth grade participants increased by 2.7 school days compared to non-participants. At the high school level, regular school day attendance for participants in the lowest attendance quartile increased by 4.4 days, compared to nonparticipants who were also in the lowest attendance quartile. (2004)
- Students participating in California’s After School Education and Safety Program (formerly the After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Program, ASLSNPP) improved their regular day attendance (ranging from 5 to 17 additional days per year) with particularly large improvements for students with the lowest attendance record prior to the start of the program. Students also demonstrated a more positive attitude toward school, enhanced confidence about learning and increased educational aspirations. (2002)

Improved Test Scores and Grades

- Students who actively participated in the YMCA High School Youth Initiative—a comprehensive afterschool program serving low-income, urban communities—made greater gains in their grade point average and English language arts and math standardized test scores than their peers not participating in the program. Close to one-third of program participants (31 percent) improved their GPA, compared to 1 in 5 matched non-participants, 17 percent of participants improved their English language arts test scores compared to 6 percent of non-participants and 4 percent of participants improved their math test scores versus just 2 percent of students not participating in the program. (2014)
- Year two of a five-year summer learning project found that elementary school students participating in summer learning programs in five low-income, urban school districts across the country performed better on math tests in the fall following their summer program than their non-participating peers. Researchers equated the gains in math to a 17 to 21 percent average increase in math learning. (2014)
- A 2013 statewide evaluation of Rhode Island’s 21st CCLC afterschool programs found that students participating in the program made gains in their reading and math achievement. Additionally, the 2014 statewide evaluation found that a high proportion of students in 21st CCLC programs believe that participating in the program has helped them with their academic skills, such as completing homework, trying harder in school and performing better in school. (2014, 2013)
- In a 2014 statewide evaluation of Wisconsin’s 21st CCLC afterschool programs, teachers reported that 73 percent of students participating in the program improved their academic performance. This is similar to evaluations in 2012 and 2010— in 2012, more than 7 in 10 students participating in the programs improved their academic performance, and in 2010, 69 percent of regular program attendees increased their academic performance and 2 in 5 regular attendees increased their grades in math (40 percent) and language arts (42 percent) from the first grading period to the end of the school year. (2014, 2012, 2010)

- Students regularly attending Washington’s 21st CCLC afterschool programs saw improvements in their reading and math achievement, as well as a positive impact on their overall GPA, compared to their non-participating peers. (2014)
- High school students participating in Texas’ 21st CCLC afterschool programs—both students with low and high levels of program participation—saw positive gains on their reading and math scores and a significant increased likelihood of being promoted to the next grade level compared to students not participating in the programs. Participation in the program increased grade promotion by 79 percent among infrequent attendees and 97 percent among regular attendees. (2013)
- An evaluation of Higher Achievement—an intensive year-round afterschool program—found that after two years in the program, students performed better on standardized tests in math problem-solving and reading comprehension compared to non-attendees. (2013)
- Beyond the Bell students performed better on their California Standards Test (CST) scores and the California High School Exit Exams (CAHSEE) in English language arts (ELA) and math compared to their non-participating peers. Beyond the Bell participants’ mean CST ELA score was six points higher than non-participants and the mean CST math score was three points higher. Seventy-nine percent of Beyond the Bell students passed the CAHSEE in ELA compared to 73 percent of their non-participating peers, and 81 percent of participants passed the math CAHSEE compared to 73 percent of students not in the program. (2013)
- A statewide evaluation of South Carolina’s 21st CCLC programs found that 79 percent of students believed that the program had improved their academic skills and more than 6 in 10 believed that the program improved their enhanced learning skills, such as technology and computer skills. (2012)
- A strong majority of principals reported that New Hampshire’s 21st CCLC programs played a role in improved literacy skills (90 percent) and improved math skills (86 percent) among students who participated in the programs. (2012)
- An independent statewide evaluation of California’s After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) program found that students who attended the program received higher English language arts and math scores than non-participants. Additionally, participants in the afterschool programs performed better than non-participants on the English language arts and math sections of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). (2012)
- Ninety-four percent of middle school students attending 21st CCLC programs in Pinellas County, FL, maintained or showed growth in language arts (compared to 59 percent of non-participants), 84 percent maintained or showed growth in math (compared to 62 percent of non-participants) and 85 percent maintained or showed growth in science (compared to 40 percent of non-participants). (2011)
- A meta-analysis spanning 68 studies of afterschool conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago-based Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) found that students participating in a high quality afterschool program attended school more, showed improved behavior, received higher grades and did better on tests compared to non-participating students. (2010)
- On an annual basis, attendance at math-focused Texas 21st CCLC sessions significantly increased the likelihood that students would pass the math portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills examination. (2009)
- The Promising Afterschool Programs Study, a study of about 3,000 low-income, ethnically-diverse elementary and middle school students, found that those who regularly attended high-quality programs over two years demonstrated gains of up to 20 percentiles and 12 percentiles in standardized math test scores respectively, compared to their peers who were routinely unsupervised during the afterschool hours. (2007)

- A study of North Carolina’s Young Scholars Program revealed that prior to participating in Young Scholars, many participants were retained or required to repeat a grade in previous years. Over five years, promotion rates for Young Scholars program participants improved by 83 percent. Young Scholars participants also made significant gains on North Carolina’s state tests. Young Scholars with at least 280 hours in the program averaged double-digit increases annually for proficiency in both math and reading. Furthermore, the number of Young Scholars receiving A’s and B’s increased an average of 38 percent, while the number receiving F’s decreased an average of 50 percent. (2006)
- Students participating in LA’s BEST afterschool programs demonstrated higher academic achievement on standardized tests of math, reading and language arts. In addition, language redesignation rates favored LA’s BEST students when compared with non-LA’s BEST students. (2005)
- Researchers at Fordham University found that participants in the YMCA of Greater New York Virtual Y Program demonstrated statistically significant higher gains in math test scores compared to matched nonparticipants. Participants also had statistically significant gains in attendance compared to a group of matched nonparticipants. (2005)
- Policy Studies Associates’ second-year evaluation of a program run by The After-School Corporation’s (TASC) found significant differences in proficiency-level shifts among active participants and nonparticipants who scored in the lowest proficiency level on the 1998-99 mathematics tests. When tested in 1999-2000, participants were more likely than nonparticipants to score at a higher proficiency level as compared to their 1998-99 performance. A similar but less pronounced pattern was observed on the reading tests administered in grades 3-8. (2005)
- Students participating in Foundations, Inc. afterschool programs scored higher than the comparison group on math, reading and language arts standardized tests at every grade level. (2002)

Students at Greatest Risk Show Greatest Gains

- An evaluation of the BELL (Building Education Leaders for Life) Summer program found that student participants, of whom approximately 80 percent performed below grade level at the start of the program, made significant gains in both reading and math. Students’ average percentile rank score increased from 23rd to 32nd in math and from 26th to 35th in reading (1 = lowest percentile and 99 = highest percentile). Additionally, middle school students furthest behind performing at grade level in reading and math saw the greatest improvement—gaining 7.2 months of reading skills and 7.5 months of math skills during the course of the summer program. (2012)
- Based on teacher reports of students who needed to improve academically and regularly attended a 21st CCLC program, an evaluation of Indiana’s 21st CCLC program found that 69 percent made improvements over the course of the school year. (2012)
- A five-phase evaluation of the Citizen Schools program found that former Citizen School participants were more likely to pass the tenth-grade Mathematics and English/Language Arts Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests than were students district-wide. This finding is particularly noteworthy considering that participants as a group were more academically at-risk than the general Boston Public School population at baseline. (2010)

- A Public/Private Ventures evaluation of the Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL) project, an eight-year, \$58 million afterschool initiative of the James Irvine Foundation, concluded that the five-city program's tightly focused literacy programming three to four days a week produced "pronounced gains in achievement for a range of students." Most afterschool students were elementary-school aged, more than half were designated English language learners and 89 percent were recipients of free or reduced-price lunch. The reading gains were greatest for participating youth who were two or more grade levels behind at the time of the first assessment. This improvement represents approximately three quarters of a grade level in reading. (2008)
- A 2006 meta-analysis synthesizing 35 out-of-school time (OST) afterschool program studies, conducted by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) with funding from the Department of Education, found that afterschool programs had positive and significant effects among students at risk of failure in reading or math. Researchers found positive results on reading achievement, particularly in lower elementary grade levels and in high school and positive and significant effects on math achievement, particularly for middle and high school students. (2006)
- According to a 10-year study of LA's BEST, participation appears to have a significant effect in reducing the hazard of dropping out for low-income students. The greater the low-income status at the baseline, the longer participation in LA's BEST will keep these students in school. (2005)
- North Carolina's Support Our Students participants who were the furthest behind and had the most risk factors (e.g., free/reduced lunch status, single-parent households, etc.) made the greatest gains on their End of Grade (EOG) Achievement Test. (2005)
- A TASC program evaluation concluded that participants who were at greatest academic risk made the largest math gains when compared to other students. Math benefits were most clearly evident for students who scored in the lowest of four proficiency levels in the year prior to TASC participation. Furthermore, among students from low-income families, the evaluation also found evidence of math benefits for program attendees after two or more years of active participation. (2004)

Frequency and Duration of Afterschool Participation Increases Benefits

- Research examining the effect of participation in afterschool programs found that the more consistent students' participation in afterschool is, the greater the gains in their math achievement. Among low-income students, the higher the levels of participation in afterschool, the smaller the math achievement gap is between them and their high-income peers. The research also found that students regularly participating in afterschool improved their behavioral outcomes and school day attendance. (2013)
- Students participating in Texas' 21st Century Community Learning Centers saw improvements in their school-day behavior, and the positive impact increased the longer students took part in the program. An evaluation by the American Institutes for Research found that students participating in the program for 30 days or more saw a 6 percent decrease in their disciplinary incidents, compared to their non-participating peers. Students participating in the program for 60 days or more saw a decrease in disciplinary incidents of 11 percent. (2013)
- A study of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas found that elementary and middle school students attending the program with greater frequency saw an increase in GPA and a decrease in school absences. (2012)

- Public Profit’s evaluation of afterschool programs in the Oakland, CA, area found that youth who attended their program for at least 100 days are approximately 20 percent more likely to score “proficient” or “advanced” on the California Standards Test in English Language Arts or Math than students who attended the program for just a few days. For English Language Learner participants, the evaluation found attending an afterschool program for 25 days increases the likelihood of re-designation as English fluent by 25 percent, and attending an afterschool program for 100 days increases the likelihood of re-designation as English fluent by 40 percent. (2011)
- Data from an LA’s BEST evaluation found that sustained participation in elementary level afterschool programs can lead to sustained academic gains in middle school. Students that participated in LA’s BEST for 50 days or more showed benefits to their GPA in general math, while those taking algebra, science and history saw benefits to their GPA at 80 days of participation. Former LA’s BEST students also demonstrated higher standardized test scores in math and algebra in middle school, with the strongest results coming from those who participated for minimum of 140 days in elementary school. (2011)
- An eight phase evaluation of the Citizen Schools program begun in 2001 found that participants with high levels of program exposure were significantly more likely to be on track to successful graduation than matched nonparticipants. The sixth phase of the evaluation found that 59 percent of former Citizen Schools 8th Grade Academy participants enrolled in high-quality high schools compared to 28 percent of matched nonparticipants. Former Citizen Schools participants were also significantly more likely to graduate from high school in four years than were Boston Public Schools students overall. (2010)
- External research conducted by the University of California, Irvine concerning THINK Together afterschool programs in Santa Ana, CA, has demonstrated that the more THINK Together afterschool opportunities a student participates in, the more likely they are to experience significant gains on the California Standards Test. This is true for both Math and English/Language Arts. (2010)
- For students participating in the Fort Worth After School Program, the number of days a student attended the program had a significant positive relationship with passing the math portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test. (2009)
- An evaluation of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America found that youth who attended the Club with greater frequency were more likely to report an increase in school effort and academic confidence and a decrease in the number of times skipping school. (2009)
- According to the Promising After-School Programs Study—a 2007 study of the effects of afterschool programs on nearly 3,000 low-income students at 35 high-quality afterschool programs across the nation—elementary school students who regularly attended the high-quality afterschool programs (alone or in combination with other activities) across two years demonstrated significant gains in standardized math test scores, compared to their peers who were routinely unsupervised during afterschool hours. (2007)
- Chapin Hall’s study of Chicago’s After School Matters program found that, over their full high school careers, students enrolled in the program for three or more semesters and those who participated at the highest levels had higher graduation rates and lower dropout rates than similar students not in the program. (2007)
- A Mahoney and Lord/Yale University study of afterschool participation found that children who were in the highest category of afterschool program attendance had significantly higher reading achievement than children in all other care arrangements (parent, sibling/self-care or some combination) while children at lower levels of participation outperformed children in only some of the other care arrangements. (2005)

- A study of New Hampshire's state and federally-funded, academically-focused afterschool programs concluded that regular attendance contributes to student success. In particular, at the middle school level (where data were richer) students who regularly attended were more likely to show academic improvement than students who attended less frequently. However, even students who attended sporadically showed improvement. (2005)
 - LA's BEST students who participated in the afterschool program most frequently and for the longest period of time were least likely to drop out of school. (2005)
 - Policy Studies Associates' found that students who participated in TASC afterschool activities the most consistently and for the longest period of time experienced the greatest math gains. (2004)
 - A statewide evaluation of California's After School Education and Safety Program by the University of California, Irvine demonstrated mathematics gains closely related to individual students' levels of participation in the program. (2002)
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Behavioral Outcomes Summary

Keeping Children Safe

- An evaluation of 83 out-of-school time programs in Oakland, CA found that most participants—from elementary schoolers to high schoolers—reported feeling safe in their afterschool program. More than 9 in 10 high schoolers (95 percent), 3 in 4 middle schoolers and more than 5 in 6 elementary schoolers (87 percent) felt positively about their safety in the afterschool program. (2014)
- A study of New Hampshire’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers found that 89 percent of students in the program reported feeling safe in the program most or all of the time. (2012)
- An evaluation of the Fort Worth After School (FWAS) program found that 94 percent of parents agreed that FWAS kept their child from getting in trouble and 45 percent also felt that their child would get into trouble if they were at home. (2009)
- A Public/Private Ventures evaluation of the CORAL initiative in California found that 9 in 10 program participants reported feeling safe. (2008)
- A 2000 evaluation report of the LA’s BEST program found that parents and children alike found the safety of the afterschool program far superior to the safety within the neighborhood. A 2007 evaluation report found that children attending LA’s BEST are 30 percent less likely to participate in criminal activities than their peers who do not attend the program. Researchers estimate that for every dollar invested in the program, the city saves \$2.50 in crime-related costs. (2007, 2000)
- An evaluation of the New York City Beacon program concluded that the vast majority of youth (85 percent) reported that it was ‘always true’ or ‘mostly true’ that they felt safe at the Beacon. (2002)

Positive Impact on Children’s Self-Concept and Decision Making

- More than three-quarters of students (77 percent) attending the New York City Beacon reported that participation in the program taught them about the dangers of alcohol, drugs and other risky activities. (2011)
- Participants in Chicago’s After School Matters program engaged in risky behaviors—such as selling or using drugs and taking part in gang activity—at a much lower rate than matched non-participants. (2011)
- A meta-analysis conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago-based Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) found that participants in afterschool programs improve significantly in three major areas: feelings and attitudes, indicators of behavioral adjustment, and school performance. They also found that participants reduced problem behaviors (e.g., aggression, noncompliance and conduct problems) and drug use. (2010)
- The Promising Programs evaluation found that regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs is linked to “reductions in behavior problems among disadvantaged students,” including “significant reductions in aggressive behaviors with peers,” “reductions in misconduct” and “reduced use of drugs and alcohol.” (2007)
- An evaluation of TASC found that staff, students and parents attributed student improvements to the afterschool program. Among the most common were improvements in social skills, including the ability to maintain self-control, make constructive choices about their behavior, and avoid fights. (2004)
- Eighty percent of New York City Beacon students described the Beacon as either “very helpful” or “pretty helpful” in helping them avoid drug use. Seventy-four percent said that the Beacon was either “very helpful” or “pretty helpful” in helping them avoid fighting. (2002)

Helping Working Families and Encouraging Parental Participation

- A Public Profit study of afterschool programs in Oakland, CA, found that 61 percent of parents surveyed said that because of their afterschool program, they were able to go to work or go to school. (2011)
- An evaluation of New York City's Out-of-School Time Programs for Youth initiative found that 74 percent of parents of participants agreed that the program made it easier for them to keep their job, and 73 percent agreed that they missed less work than they had previously because their children attended the program. In addition, 71 percent of parents reported that they were able to work more hours because their children were in the program. (2009)
- The Brandeis/Catalyst study of working parents found that worries about children's activities in the afternoon makes mothers and fathers less productive at work and contributes to employee stress, costing businesses between \$50 billion and \$300 billion annually in lost productivity. (2006)
- Parents in a TASC study said the program helped them balance work and family life: 94 percent said the program was convenient; 60 percent said they missed less work than before; 59 percent said it supported them in keeping their job; and 54 percent said it allowed them to work more hours. In addition, 31 percent of principals reported that TASC "very much" increased parents' attendance at school events and 15 percent reported that it "very much" increased parents' attendance at parent-teacher conferences. (2004)
- In a study of the Extended-Service Schools Initiative: 80 percent of parents said they were less worried about their child's safety after school; 57 percent said their child's participation helped them manage their own work schedule; 47 percent said it let them attend classes or job training more easily; and 50 percent said it helped them get a better job or do better at their job. (2002)
- The LA's BEST evaluation found that three-quarters of the parents surveyed worried significantly less about their children's safety and that they had more energy in the evening since enrolling their children in the program. A clear majority also indicated that the program resulted in sizeable savings in their time. (2000)

Helping Keep Children Healthy

- Students participating in an afterschool program that integrated FITKids into its activities—an exercise program that was designed to engage students in moderate to vigorous physical activity for at least 60 minutes—not only saw a 6 percent increase in their physical fitness, compared to a less than 1 percent increase by students not participating in the program, but students in the afterschool program also improved their ability to concentrate and switch between cognitive tasks. (2014)
- Surveys of children participating in Michigan's 21st CCLC afterschool programs found that students participating in health, nutrition and physical activities agreed that they learned about the "importance of good nutrition" and "how to promote wellness" and gained new skills, such as good health and safety practices. Additionally, low-income students reported greater benefits than higher-income participants. (2013)
- An evaluation by CRESST at the University of California, Los Angeles found that students attending California's After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) program were more likely than non-participants to fall into the "healthy fitness zones" for 5 out of 6 fitness benchmarks: cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength, muscular endurance and flexibility. (2012)
- A Mahoney and Lord study, conducted in an unnamed urban setting, found that the prevalence of obesity was significantly lower for afterschool

program participants (21 percent) compared to nonparticipants (33 percent) at follow-up. Researchers controlled for baseline obesity, poverty status, race and ethnicity. (2005)

- A Medical College of Georgia study of a specially designed afterschool curriculum found that children who attended 40 percent of the afterschool sessions or more, compared to children in the control group, showed significant differences in change in body fat percentage—test group students decreased their body fat percentage, while the control group students increased theirs. These same students showed significantly greater gains in bone mass density and cardiovascular fitness. (2005)

Reducing Truancy and Improving Behavior in School

- Students participating in Rhode Island's 21st Century Community Learning Centers saw improvements in their school-day attendance and behavior. An evaluation of the state's afterschool programs found that students participating for 60 days or more had statistically significant lower unexcused absence rates and lower disciplinary rates than their non-participating peers. Additionally, a high proportion of students surveyed in a 2014 evaluation reported that their 21st CCLC program helped their social and personal skills. (2014, 2013)
- Wisconsin teacher-reported improvements in behavior reflect that more than half of all regular 21st CCLC program attendees improved in behaving well in class (55 percent), getting along with their peers (59 percent), being attentive in class (57 percent) and regularly attending school (46 percent). (2014)
- A study of New Hampshire's 21st CCLC programs found that 89 percent of principals surveyed reported that the afterschool programs improved students' school attendance, 95 percent stated that the program improves students' behavior and 97 percent said that the program enhanced students' social skills. Ninety-three percent of principals said that the program increases school safety. (2012)
- Students who frequently participated in California's After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) program were less likely to be suspended than non-participants. (2012)
- An evaluation found that students participating in the Oakland Unified School District's afterschool programs were less likely than non-participants to be chronically absent from school, and as a whole, increased their school-day attendance by 35,343 days in the 2010-2011 school year, earning the district between \$827,019 and \$989,596 in additional revenue. (2011)
- A five-phase evaluation of the Citizen Schools program found that former high-exposure participants of the 8th Grade Academy had statistically significant reductions in suspension rates in the ninth grade compared to matched nonparticipants. (2010)
- An evaluation of Chicago After-School All-Stars found that participation in the program was found to result in fewer suspensions and fewer regular school-day absences. Specifically, All-Stars participants demonstrated a 14 percent reduction in absences and a 17 percent reduction in suspensions. (2009)
- Researchers at Fordham University found that participants in the YMCA of Greater New York Virtual Y Programs demonstrated statistically significant and moderate-to-large improvements in task motivation, frustration tolerance, learning skills, acting out, peer social skills, assertive social skills, shyness/ anxiety and on the overall behavior scale. (2005)

- An evaluation of North Carolina's Support Our Students program found that fewer students were chronically absent from school in 2004–2005 (9 percent) compared with their attendance the previous year (11 percent). Classroom teachers reported that 33 percent of participants improved behavior in math class throughout the school year and 34 percent improved behavior in English/Language Arts classes. (2005)

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

March 2015

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|---|--|
| <u>Wisconsin 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | Wisconsin Department of Instruction Evers, T., Ph.D. | 2014 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of Wisconsin's 205 21 st CCLC programs during the 2012-2013 school year. | Teachers surveyed reported that students participating in 21 st CCLC programs saw a number of academic improvements, including 73% of students improving their academic performance, 67% improving their class participation, 65% improving turning in their homework on time and 60% seeing improvements in their motivation to learn. |
| <u>National Summer Learning Study</u> | RAND Corporation Sloan McCombs, J., Pane, J.F., Augustine, C.H., Schwartz, H.L., Martorell, P. and Zakaras, L. | December 2014 | Large Scale | Year two of a five-year randomized controlled study that follows low-income students from third to fifth grade (3,194 students in the treatment group and 2,445 students in the control group) in five urban districts located in Boston, MA; Dallas, TX; Duval County, FL; Pittsburgh, PA and Rochester, NY. | Students participating in the summer learning programs performed better on math tests in the fall following their summer program than their non-participating peers. Researchers equated the gains in math to a 17 to 21% average increase in math learning. However, researchers did not find a statistically significant difference in reading skills between participants and non-participants. |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|--|---|--------------|----------------------|---|--|
| Oakland School-Based Afterschool Programs Evaluation | Public Profit | October 2014 | State Level | An evaluation of 83 afterschool programs in Oakland, CA serving more than 18,000 students during the 2013-2014 school year. | The evaluation found that 80% of elementary school students say that their afterschool program helps them to feel ready to go to middle school, 70% of middle schoolers say that they feel more prepared to go to high school, and 95% of high school students report that their afterschool program helps them believe that they can finish higher school and 89% feel more confident about going to college. Ninety-four percent of participants' parents reported that their child's attitude toward school had improved since joining the program. |
| Rhode Island 21st Century Community Learning Centers | American Institutes for Research Vinson, M. and Hutson, M. | August 2014 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of Rhode Island's 21 st CCLC programs during the 2012-2013 school year that surveyed 1,366 students participating in the program. | Students participating in 21 st CCLC programs completed the Survey of Academic and Youth Outcomes Youth Survey (SAYO-Y) and evaluators found that when asked if participating in the program helped them academically, student answers "heavily skewed toward the positive." |
| YMCA High School Youth Institute | O'Donnell, J. and Kirkner, S.L. | January 2014 | Local/ Program Level | A randomized controlled study comparing high school students participating in the YMCA High School Youth Initiative to a randomly-selected, matched comparison group. | The evaluation found that students who actively participated in the YMCA High School Youth Initiative—a comprehensive afterschool program serving low-income, urban communities—made greater gains in their grade point average (31% vs. 20%) and English language arts (17% vs. 6%) and math (4% vs. 2%) standardized test scores than their peers not participating in the program. |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|--|--|
| <u>Washington 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | American Institutes for Research Naftzger, N., et. al. | January 2014 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of Washington’s 21 st CCLCs examining how well centers implemented best practices and assessing the impact of the program on participating students. | The evaluation found that students regularly attending Washington’s 21 st CCLC afterschool programs saw improvements in their reading and math achievement, as well as experienced a positive impact on their overall GPA, compared to their non-participating peers. |
| <u>Rhode Island 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | American Institutes for Research Vinson, M., et. al. | June 2013 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of Rhode Island’s 21 st CCLCs’ impact on student outcomes, effect of regular program participation, and relationship between program characteristics and student outcomes. | The evaluation found that students participating in the program saw gains in their reading and math achievement. |
| <u>Narrowing the Achievement Gap: Consistency and Intensity of Structured Activities During Elementary School</u> | Pierce, K.M., Auger, A. and Vandell, D.L. | April 2013 | Large Scale | An analysis on the academic impact of participation in structured afterschool activities using data from the Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development. | The study found that consistent participation in afterschool programs led to greater gains in math achievement and academic achievement, as well as improved behaviors and school day attendance. The higher the levels of participation in afterschool among low-income students, the smaller the gap in math achievement between them and their high-income peers. |
| <u>Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | American Institutes for Research | February 2013 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of Texas’ 21 st CCLCs, assessing operations, participation and student achievement. | The evaluation found that students attending Texas’ 21 st CCLC afterschool programs, regardless of participation level, improved their school day attendance—students with low levels of participation in the program... |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|--|--|---------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers...continued | American Institutes for Research | February 2013 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of Texas' 21 st CCLCs, assessing operations, participation and student achievement. | ... decreased their absentee rate by 14% and students with high levels of participation experienced a 15% reduction. Additionally, students with low levels of participation increased the likelihood of being promoted to the next grade by 43%. High school students made even greater gains, with participation in the program increasing grade promotion by 79% among infrequent attendees and 97% among frequent attendees. |
| Higher Achievement – Washington, D.C. | Herrera, C., Baldwin Grossman, J. and Linden, L.L. | 2013 | Local/ Program Level | A comprehensive, multiyear evaluation of Higher Achievement to test its impact on participants' academic performance, attitudes and behaviors, and enrollment in competitive high schools. The evaluation includes 952 students, recruited for the program in 2006, 2007 and 2008, as they were entering 5 th or 6 th grade. | The evaluation found that after two years in the program, students performed better on standardized tests in math problem-solving and reading comprehension compared to non-attendees. |
| Beyond the Bell – Los Angeles, CA | Educational Resource Consultants | 2013 | Local/ Program Level | An evaluation that matched participants in the Beyond the Bell program with the Los Angeles Unified School District's school population, comparing a variety of demographic characteristics, including gender, ethnicity, grade level, socioeconomic status and English language learner status. | The evaluation found that students participating in the program performed better on their California Standards Test (CST) scores and the California High School Exit Exams (CAHSEE) in English language arts (ELA) and math compared to their non-participating peers. Beyond the Bell participants' mean CST ELA score was six points higher than non-participants' and the mean CST math score was three points higher. Seventy-nine percent of Beyond the Bell students passed... |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|---|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <p><u>Beyond the Bell – Los Angeles, CA ...continued</u></p> | <p>Educational Resource Consultants</p> | <p>2013</p> | <p>Local/ Program Level</p> | <p>An evaluation that matched participants in the Beyond the Bell program with the Los Angeles Unified School District’s school population, comparing a variety of demographic characteristics, including gender, ethnicity, grade level, socioeconomic status and English language learner status.</p> | <p>...the CAHSEE in ELA compared to 73 percent of their non-participating peers, and 81 percent of participants passed the math CAHSEE compared to 73 percent of students not in the program.</p> |
| <p><u>Wisconsin 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u></p> | <p>Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Evers, T., Ph.D.</p> | <p>August 2012</p> | <p>State Level</p> | <p>A statewide evaluation of Wisconsin’s 210 21st CCLC programs during the 2010-11 school year.</p> | <p>Among students participating in 21st CCLCs, teachers reported improvements in class participation (66%), homework completion (66%), motivation to learn (58%), attentiveness in class (58%), and volunteering for extra credit or responsibility (46%).</p> |
| <p><u>South Carolina 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u></p> | <p>System Wide Solutions, Inc. Appenzeller, G.W., et. al.</p> | <p>January 2012</p> | <p>State Level</p> | <p>A statewide evaluation of South Carolina’s 21st CCLC programs during the 2010-11 school year, using data from the Grantee Evaluation Management System, the South Carolina Department of Education information systems and teacher surveys.</p> | <p>The evaluation found that students believed the afterschool program helped their academic achievement, with 79% of students reporting that the program had improved their academic skills and more than 6 in 10 believed that the program improved their enhanced learning skills, such as technology and computer skills.</p> |
| <p><u>New Hampshire 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u></p> | <p>Policy Studies Associates, Inc. Russell, C.A. and Woods, Y.</p> | <p>October 2012</p> | <p>State Level</p> | <p>A statewide evaluation of New Hampshire’s 21st CCLCs impact on participating students’ academic and social development during the 2011-12 school year.</p> | <p>Teachers reported improvements in homework completion and class participation among students participating in 21st CCLCs, and principals reported that students participating in 21st CCLCs made improvements in their math and literacy skills.</p> |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas</p> | <p>Springer, K. and Diffily, D.</p> | <p>2012</p> | <p>Local/ Program Level</p> | <p>A short-term longitudinal study of 719 2nd grade through 8th grade students participating in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas during the 2009-2010 school year.</p> | <p>The study established a relationship between higher participation levels in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas and increases in a student's GPA and decreases in their absences from school.</p> |
| <p>BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life) Summer</p> | <p>Chaplin, D., et. al.</p> | <p>2012</p> | <p>Local/ Program Level</p> | <p>An evaluation of the BELL Summer program, serving 8,765 students at 65 schools and one church across eight states.</p> | <p>The evaluation found that student participants made significant gains in both reading and math. Additionally, middle school students furthest behind saw the greatest improvement—gaining 7.2 months of reading skills and 7.5 months of math skills during the course of the program.</p> |
| <p>Evaluation of the Indiana 21st Century Community Learning Centers Initiative</p> | <p>Center for Evaluation & Education Policy Rouge, E., et. al.</p> | <p>November 2012</p> | <p>State Level</p> | <p>A statewide evaluation of Indiana's 21st CCLC program, looking at 74 programs across 228 sites, serving more than 28,000 students.</p> | <p>The evaluation found that among students who teachers reported needed to improve academically and regularly attended the 21st CCLC program, 69% made academic gains throughout the school year.</p> |
| <p>Independent Statewide Evaluation of High School After School Programs</p> | <p>CRESST/ University of California, Los Angeles Huang, D., et. al.</p> | <p>February 2012</p> | <p>State Level</p> | <p>A statewide longitudinal evaluation of the After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) program, California's high school component of the 21st CCLC program.</p> | <p>The evaluation found that students participating in the ASSETs program received higher ELA and math assessment scores, and performed better on the ELA and math sections of the CAHSEE than non-participants.</p> |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Oakland Out-of-School Time Programs Evaluation Findings Report 2010-11 | Public Profit | September 2011 | Local/ Program Level | An evaluation of 92 afterschool programs in Oakland, CA serving more than 20,000 elementary, middle and high school students during the 2010-2011 school year. | <p>The evaluation found that students participating in afterschool programs for at least 100 days are approximately 20% more likely to score “proficient” or “advanced” on the California Standards Test in English Language Arts or Math than students who attended the program for just a few days. Additionally, students participating in the afterschool programs increased their school-day attendance by 35,343 days in the 2010-2011 school year, earning the district between \$827,019 and \$989,596 more in additional revenue.</p> |
| EduCare Foundation Afterschool Programs – Los Angeles, CA | Educational Research Consultants | February 2011 | Local/ Program Level | An evaluation of participation levels and academic outcomes of 8,849 Los Angeles high school students participating in an afterschool program operated by the EduCare Foundation in 2010-2011. | <p>EduCare program participants had higher mean scale scores than non-participants on the CST Math and ELA. Over half of EduCare students scoring at the Far Below Basic level in Math and/or ELA in 2009 moved up at least one level on the 2010 CST. A higher percentage of 10th grade EduCare participants passed the ELA and Math portions of the CAHSEE than non-participants.</p> |
| Beyond the Bell – Los Angeles, CA | Educational Research Consultants | 2011 | Local/ Program Level | An evaluation of participation levels and academic outcomes of 63,656 Los Angeles high school students participating in an afterschool program operated through Beyond the Bell in 2010-2011. | <p>School attendance, state test scores and graduation rates were significantly improved by attending district-wide LAUSD's Beyond the Bell afterschool programs. Also, high school seniors who attended LAUSD Beyond the Bell afterschool programs throughout the four years of high school, graduated at a rate of 86.2% versus a graduation rate of 71.8% for non-afterschool program students.</p> |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Pinellas County, FL 21st CCLC Programs | Silver, S.E., PhD. And Albert, R.J. | July 2011 | Local/Program Level | A report on the performance data for the 21 st Community Learning Centers (21 st CCLC) program operated by Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc. under two grants from the Florida Department of Education. | Ninety-four percent of middle school students maintained or showed growth in language arts, 84% maintained or showed growth in math and 85% maintained or showed growth in science. |
| LA's BEST – Los Angeles, CA | CRESST | 2011 | Local/Program Level | An analysis of 20,000 LAUSD middle school students who participated in LA's BEST with varying degrees of intensity in elementary school. | The more a student participated in LA's BEST, the better their academic outcomes were in middle school—at 50 days, gains were shown in general math; at 80 days, gains were shown in algebra, science and history; at 140 days gains were shown in language arts. |
| Project Exploration – Chicago, IL | Project Exploration | March 2011 | Local/Program Level | A 10-year retrospective study of the impact of Project Exploration's programs, which surveyed 30% of the 259 alumni in their database over the age of 18. Project Exploration works with 250 Chicago Public School middle and high school students each year: more than 85% come from low-income African-American and Latino families; 74% are girls. | Ninety-five percent of Project Exploration participants have graduated from high school or are on track to graduate. Sixty percent of former participants who are enrolled in a four-year college are pursuing degrees in STEM-related fields. |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|---|---|---------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| <u>THINK Together – Santa Ana, CA</u> | University of California, Irvine Vandell, D., et. al. | November 2010 | Local/ Program Level | An external analysis of student test scores, attendance and assessment records in 39 THINK Together afterschool sites in the Santa Ana Unified School District that offer a combination of 21 st CCLC/ACES and Supplemental Educational Services. | The number of THINK Together afterschool opportunities a student attended had a significant positive on test scores. Also, parents and principals report general satisfaction with the quality of the program. |
| <u>Citizen Schools – Boston, MA</u> | Policy Studies Associates, Inc. | August 2010 | Local/ Program Level | The final analysis of an eight year evaluation of the academic outcomes in high school of former 8 th grade participants in the Boston-based Citizen Schools. | Former Citizen Schools participants enrolled in top-tier high schools at more than twice the rate of matched comparison students. Overall, former participants enrolled and completed all four years of high school in a top-tier school at more than three times the rate of matched comparison students. |
| <u>Wisconsin 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | Evers, T., PhD. | August 2010 | State Level | An evaluation of the 44,483 students who participated in the 174 21 st CCLCs in Wisconsin during the 2008-09 school year. | Teachers of students participating in Wisconsin 21 st CCLC programs reported that 69% of regular program attendees increased their academic performance with 40% increasing their grades in math and 42% increasing their grades in language arts from the first grading period to the end of the school year. |
| <u>The Beacon Community Centers Middle School Initiative – New York, NY</u> | Policy Studies Associates, Inc. Russell, C.A., et. al. | May 2010 | Local/ Program Level | A study of middle school participants in New York City's Beacon Initiative, which serves over 21,000 middle schoolers in New York. | Eighty percent of students believed that they were finishing their homework more often because of the Beacon they attended and 75% believed the Beacon helped them get better grades. |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|--|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| <p>CASEL’s Meta-Analysis of After-School Programs that Seek to Promote Personal and Social Skills in Children and Adolescents</p> | <p>Weissberg, R.P., Durlak, J. and Pachan, M.</p> | <p>March 2010</p> | <p>Large Scale</p> | <p>A meta-analysis spanning 68 separate studies of afterschool programs.</p> | <p>Afterschool programs can lead to improved attendance, behavior and coursework. Students participating in a high quality afterschool program went to school more, behaved better, received better grades and did better on tests compared to non-participating students.</p> |
| <p><u>Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u></p> | <p>Burgette, J., Akerstrom, J., Nunnery, J., et. al.</p> | <p>August 2009</p> | <p>State Level</p> | <p>An evaluation of the Texas 21st CCLC program during the 2007-08 academic year.</p> | <p>Youth who attended math-focused activities as part of the Texas 21st CCLC program were significantly more likely to pass the math portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.</p> |
| <p>Fort Worth After School (FWAS) Program – Fort Worth, TX</p> | <p>Witt, P.A. and King, T.</p> | <p>August 2009</p> | <p>Local/ Program Level</p> | <p>An evaluation of 84 Fort Worth Independent School District afterschool programs, including 21st CCLC programs.</p> | <p>A significant positive relationship emerged between the number of days students attended the afterschool program and the instances of passing the math and science portions of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test. Also, results indicate that attending FWAS Program in at least the current year has a positive relationship to school attendance.</p> |
| <p><u>Boys & Girls Clubs of America</u></p> | <p>Public/Private Ventures Arbreton, A., et. al.</p> | <p>May 2009</p> | <p>Large Scale</p> | <p>A 30-month longitudinal evaluation of 322 Boys & Girls Club members from 10 Clubs across the country beginning in seventh and eighth grade.</p> | <p>Participants who attended the program more often than their peers reported higher levels of community service involvement, increased integrity, increased academic confidence, decreased aggression, decreased truancy and decreased number of times stopped by the police.</p> |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|--|--|---------------|----------------------|--|--|
| <u>Evaluation of the California-based Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning initiative (CORAL)</u> | Public/Private Ventures Arbreton, A., Sheldon, J., Bradshaw, M., Goldsmith, J., Jucovy, L. and Pepper, S. | February 2008 | Local/ Program Level | A Public/Private Ventures evaluation of the CORAL project, an eight-year \$58 million afterschool initiative in cities across California designed by the James Irvine Foundation. Most students were elementary-school aged, more than half were English learners, and 89% received free or reduced-price lunch. | Among CORAL youth exposed to the same level of participation and quality, English learners gained as much as their English-proficient peers. Children who began the CORAL program two or more grade levels behind based on the individualized reading assessments gained just as much as their higher-achieving counterparts over the same period of time. |
| <u>The Promising After-School Programs Study</u> | Vandell, D.L., Reisner, E.R. and Pierce, K.M. | October 2007 | Large Scale | A study of the effect of afterschool programs on nearly 3,000 low-income students at 45 high-quality afterschool programs across the nation. | Regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs is linked to significant gains in standardized test scores and work habits as well as reductions in behavioral problems among disadvantaged students. |
| <u>California 21st Century High School After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) Programs</u> | Hips, J. and Diaz, M. | January 2007 | State Level | An evaluation of the first cohort of ASSETs grantees (2005-06), which included over 27,900 high school students from across California. | For both the English/language arts and mathematics portions of the California High School Exit Exam, afterschool participants passed at a significantly higher rate than similarly situated students not involved in projects. |
| <u>After School Matters (ASM) – Chicago, IL</u> | Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago | January 2007 | Local/ Program Level | A Chapin Hall study of Chicago’s ASM program, which offers paid internships in the arts, technology, sports and communications to teenagers in some of the city’s most underserved schools. | Students who participated in ASM missed fewer days of school than their classmates. Those who participated most frequently failed fewer core academic courses in English, Math, Science and Social Studies. Also, over their full high school careers, students enrolled in the program for three or more semesters had... |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|---|---|--------------|----------------------|---|--|
| <u>After School Matters (ASM) – Chicago, IL...continued</u> | Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago | January 2007 | Local/ Program Level | A Chapin Hall study of Chicago’s ASM program, which offers paid internships in the arts, technology, sports and communications to teenagers in some of the city’s most underserved schools. | ...higher graduation rates and lower dropout rates than similar students not in the program. |
| <u>Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) Meta-Analysis of Effects of Out-of-School Time Programs for At-Risk Students</u> | Lauer, P.A., Matoko, A., Wilkerson, S.B., Apthorp, H.S., Snow, D., and Martin-Glenn, M.L. | Summer 2006 | Large Scale | A meta-analysis of 35 separate afterschool program evaluations. | Afterschool programs had positive and significant effects among students at risk of failure in producing positive results on reading and math achievement with slight variance among different grade levels. |
| <u>Young Scholars Program – North Carolina</u> | Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation | 2006 | State Level | An analysis of the effects of the Young Scholars program on students in schools throughout North Carolina. | Young Scholars participants made significant gains on the N.C. statewide standardized tests in both math and reading. Participant grades also improved dramatically. |
| <u>Mahoney and Lord Ecological Analysis of After-School Program Participation</u> | Mahoney, J. Lord, L. Carryl, E. | Summer 2005 | Local/ Program Level | A longitudinal study evaluating afterschool program participation and the academic performance and teacher-rated motivational attributes over a school year. Participants were 599 boys and girls from an unnamed urban, disadvantaged city in the U.S. | Children who were in the highest category of afterschool program attendance had significantly higher reading achievement than children in all other care arrangements. |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| <p>YMCA of Greater New York’s Virtual Y Program – New York, NY</p> | <p>National Center for Schools and Communities at Fordham University</p> | <p>May 2005</p> | <p>Local/ Program Level</p> | <p>A report by The National Center for Schools and Communities at Fordham University presenting the results of seven years of evaluation for the YMCA of Greater New York’s <i>Virtual Y</i> afterschool program.</p> | <p>Teachers reported significant improvements in classroom behavior for <i>Virtual Y</i> participants, the average school attendance of 3rd and 4th grade <i>Virtual Y</i> participants exceeded the average attendance of a comparison group. <i>Virtual Y</i> participants also outperformed a comparison group in post-program math scores.</p> |
| <p>Support Our Students (SOS) – North Carolina</p> | <p>EDSTAR Johnson, J.L.</p> | <p>2005</p> | <p>State Level</p> | <p>An evaluation of North Carolina’s SOS Program, which provides afterschool programs to over 16,000 students in the state.</p> | <p>SOS participants’ end-of-grade achievement test scores exceeded the state’s improvement goals in math and reading and the percentages of students who scored at grade level proficiency in reading increased by nearly 10%.</p> |
| <p><u>LA’s BEST – Los Angeles, CA</u></p> | <p>CRESST Huang, D., Kyung, S.K., Marshall, A. and Perez, P.</p> | <p>2005</p> | <p>Local/ Program Level</p> | <p>A study examining the long-term impact of LA’s BEST on student drop-out rates.</p> | <p>LA’s BEST participants were significantly less likely to drop out of school compared to matched non-participants.</p> |
| <p>Academically Focused Afterschool Programs in New Hampshire</p> | <p>Frankel, S.L., Streitburger, K. and Goldman, E.</p> | <p>2005</p> | <p>State Level</p> | <p>A study—conducted for the state—on New Hampshire’s state-and federally funded, academically focused afterschool programs.</p> | <p>More than half the students who attended programs regularly improved both academically and behaviorally. At the middle school level, where data were richer, more students who attended regularly showed academic improvement than students who attended less frequently. However, even students who attended sporadically showed improvement.</p> |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|--|--|---------------|----------------------|--|--|
| <u>Pathways to Progress – St. Paul, MN</u> | Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement – University of Minnesota | March 2004 | Local/ Program Level | A summative evaluation of the <i>Pathways to Progress</i> , 21st CCLC grant, which operated at eight sites in Saint Paul Public Schools between June 2000 and May 2003. | <i>Pathways</i> participants outperformed comparison students on standardized tests in reading and math, received better grades in English and math and attended school more regularly. |
| <u>The After-School Corporation (TASC) – New York, NY</u> | Policy Studies Associates Reisner, E.R., et. al. | November 2004 | Local/ Program Level | An external evaluation of TASC that collected data spanning four school years from 96 TASC afterschool projects and their host schools in New York City. | At the elementary and middle school levels, TASC participants showed gains in math achievement and school attendance. At the high school level, afterschool participants passed more Regents exams, attended school more regularly and earned more high school credits than their non-participating peers. |
| <u>Foundations, Inc. – PA and NJ</u> | Gansk & Associates Klein, S.P. Bolus, R. | 2002 | Local/ Program Level | An evaluation of elementary students in Foundations, Inc.'s After School Enrichment Programs at 35 schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The evaluation took place during the 2002-03 school year. | On standardized tests, Foundations students scored higher on math, reading, and language arts than the comparison group. Program students of every grade level showed significant improvements in every subject. |
| <u>California's After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnership Program (ASLSNPP)</u> | University of California at Irvine working with the California Department of Education | February 2002 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of ASLSNPP, which provides afterschool and before school programming for children in grades K-9 throughout California. | The study found that, particularly for students who participate in the ASLSNPP for substantial periods of time, there is a closing of the gap in math achievement between low-income and other students. |

Behavioral Evaluations

May 2014

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|--|---|----------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Wisconsin 21st Century Community Learning Centers | Wisconsin Department of Instruction Evers, T., Ph.D. | 2014 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of Wisconsin's 205 21 st CCLC programs during the 2012-2013 school year. | Teachers surveyed reported that students participating in 21 st CCLC programs exhibited a number of behavioral improvements, including their ability to get along with their peers (59%), class attentiveness (57%), classroom behavior (55%) and regular classroom attendance (46%). |
| Oakland School-Based Afterschool Programs Evaluation | Public Profit | October 2014 | State Level | An evaluation of 83 afterschool programs in Oakland, CA serving more than 18,000 students during the 2013-2014 school year. | More than 9 in 10 high schoolers (95%), 75% of middle schoolers and 87% elementary schoolers felt positively about their safety in the afterschool program. With regard to parent support and engagement, 91% of parents reported that the afterschool program made them aware of services in the school or community that are available for their child, 91% helped them to be more involved at their child's school and 96% helped them to feel more comfortable at their child's school. |
| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | September 2014 | Local/ Program Level | A nine-month randomized control study of 221 children participating in an afterschool program. | Students participating in FITKids in their afterschool program increased their physical fitness by 6% increase compared to less than 1% by students not participating in the program. Students in the afterschool program |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
|--|---|----------------|---------------------|---|---|
| <u>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign...continued</u> | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | September 2014 | Local/Program Level | A nine-month randomized control study of 221 children participating in an afterschool program. | ...also improved their ability to pay attention, avoid distraction and switch between cognitive tasks. |
| <u>Rhode Island 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | American Institutes for Research Vinson, M. and Hutson, M. | August 2014 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of Rhode Island's 21 st CCLC programs during the 2012-2013 school year that surveyed 1,366 students participating in the program. | Students participating in 21 st CCLC programs completed the Survey of Academic and Youth Outcomes Youth Survey (SAYO-Y) and evaluators found that when asked if participating in the program helped them build their social and personal skills, student answers "heavily skewed toward the positive." |
| <u>YMCA High School Youth Institute</u> | O'Donnell, J. and Kirkner, S.L. | January 2014 | Local/Program Level | A randomized controlled study comparing high school students participating in the YMCA High School Youth Initiative to a randomly-selected, matched comparison group. | The evaluation found that students who actively participated in the YMCA High School Youth Initiative—a comprehensive afterschool program serving low-income, urban communities—made greater gains in their grade point average (31% vs. 20%) and English language arts (17% vs. 6%) and math (4% vs. 2%) standardized test scores than their peers not participating in the program. |
| <u>Beyond the Bell – Los Angeles, CA</u> | Educational Resource Consultants | 2013 | Local/Program Level | An evaluation that matched participants in the Beyond the Bell program with the Los Angeles Unified School District's school population during the 2011-2012 school year, comparing a variety of demographic characteristics, including gender, ethnicity, grade level, socioeconomic status and English language learner status. | Seventy percent of participants had a 96% or higher school day attendance, compared to 56% of non-participants. More than 7 in 10 students (73%) attending the program for more than 33 days had a 96% or higher school day attendance versus 64% of students who attended the program six to 13 days. |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
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| <u>Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | American Institutes for Research | February 2013 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of Texas' 21 st CCLCs, assessing operations, participation and student achievement. | Program participants improved in their school-day behavior, and the positive impact increased the longer they took part in the program. Students participating in the program for 30 days or more experienced a 6% decrease in their disciplinary incidents and students participating for 60 days or more experienced an 11% decrease compared to their non-participating peers. |
| <u>Michigan 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | Michigan State University University of Outreach and Engagement-Community Evaluation and Research Collaborative | August 2013 | State Level | Surveys of more than 9,000 students participating in Michigan's 21 st CCLCs during the 2011-12 school year. | Students participating in 21 st CCLC health, nutrition and physical activities agreed that they learned about the "importance of good nutrition" and "how to promote wellness" and gained new skills, such as good health and safety practices. Low-income students also reported greater benefits than higher-income participants. |
| <u>New Hampshire 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | Policy Studies Associates, Inc. Russell, C.A. and Woods, Y. | October 2012 | State Level | A statewide evaluation of New Hampshire's 21 st CCLCs impact on participating students' academic and social development during the 2011-12 school year. | Principals reported behavioral improvements, such as better attitudes toward school and increased motivation to learn, among students in New Hampshire's 21 st CCLCs. Principals also reported afterschool programs improved students' school attendance and enhanced students' social skills. |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
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| <u>Independent Statewide Evaluation of High School After School Programs</u> | CRESST/ University of California, Los Angeles Huang, D., et. al. | February 2012 | State Level | A statewide longitudinal evaluation of the After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) program, California’s high school component of the 21 st CCLC program. | Students participating in the ASSETs program were more likely than non-participants to fall into the “healthy fitness zones” for five out of six fitness benchmarks— cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength, muscular endurance and flexibility. |
| <u>The Beacon Community Centers Middle School Initiative-New York, NY</u> | Policy Studies Associates, Inc. LaFleur, J., et. al. | September 2011 | Local/ Program Level | A study of middle school participants in New York City’s Beacon Initiative, which serves approximately 21,000 middle schoolers a year. | Eighty-one percent of student participants believed that because of the Beacon, they were finishing their homework more often, 78% of students felt better about their school work and 78% believed they received better grades in school. |
| <u>Oakland Out-of-School Time Programs Evaluation Findings Report 2010-11</u> | Public Profit | September 2011 | Local/ Program Level | An evaluation of 92 afterschool programs in Oakland, CA serving more than 20,000 elementary, middle and high school students during the 2010-2011 school year. | Nearly 9 in 10 (87%) Oakland OST elementary participants agreed that they felt safe while in the afterschool program. Participants in middle and high school programs reported feeling more safe in their afterschool program than at any other point during the day. |
| <u>After School Matters – Chicago, IL</u> | Hirsh, J.B., et. al. | June 2011 | Local/ Program Level | A three-year, random assignment evaluation of After School Matters assessing 13 apprenticeships and their respective control groups for a total of 535 high school youth. | Youth in After School Matters reported significantly higher self-regulation than youth in the control group. Youth in the program also reported significantly fewer problem behaviors. Both results were reflective of a preventative impact. |

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| <u>Citizen Schools – Boston, MA</u> | Policy Studies Associates, Inc. | August 2010 | Local/ Program Level | The final analysis of an eight year evaluation of the academic outcomes in high school of former 8 th grade participants in the Boston-based Citizen Schools. | Former participants of the Citizen Schools' 8 th Grade Academy program consistently continued to attend school more often through ninth, tenth and eleventh grade compared to a group of matched nonparticipants. High exposure participants also had statistically significant reductions in suspension rates in the ninth grade compared to matched non-participants. |
| <u>Wisconsin 21st Century Community Learning Centers</u> | Evers, T., PhD. | August 2010 | State Level | An evaluation of the 44,483 students who participated in the 174 21 st CCLCs in Wisconsin during the 2008-09 school year. | The qualitative evaluation found that teachers in Wisconsin reported that 53% of regular 21 st CCLC attendees improved in behaving well in class. Additionally, teachers reported that 44% improved in class attendance, 66% improved in homework completion and 58% improved in motivation to learn. |
| <u>CASEL's Meta-Analysis of After-School Programs that Seek to Promote Personal and Social Skills in Children and Adolescents</u> | Weissberg, R.P., Durlak, J. and Pachan, M. | March 2010 | Large Scale | A meta-analysis spanning 68 separate studies of afterschool programs. | The study found that afterschool programs succeeded in improving youths' feelings of self-confidence and self-esteem, school bonding and positive social behaviors. They also reduced problem behaviors (aggression, noncompliance and conduct problems) and drug use. |
| <u>New York City's Out-of-School Time Programs for Youth Initiative (OST) – New York, NY</u> | Russell, C.A., Mielke, M.B. and Reisner, E.R. | September 2009 | Local/ Program Level | A multi-year evaluation of New York City's OST initiative including more than 81,000 youth in 622 OST programs across New York City. | Parents noted that the OST programs allowed them to work more or pursue more education. Across all responding parents, 74% agreed that the program made it easier for them to keep their job and 73% agreed that they missed less... |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
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| <u>New York City's Out-of-School Time Programs for Youth Initiative (OST) – New York, NY...continued</u> | Russell, C.A., Mielke, M.B. and Reisner, E.R. | September 2009 | Local/Program Level | A multi-year evaluation of New York City's OST initiative including more than 81,000 youth in 622 OST programs across New York City. | ...work than they had previously because their children attended the OST program. In addition, 71% of parents reported that they were able to work more hours. |
| <u>Fort Worth After School (FWAS) Program – Fort Worth, TX</u> | Witt, P.A. and King, T. | August 2009 | Local/Program Level | An evaluation of 84 Fort Worth Independent School District afterschool programs, including 21 st CCLC programs. | Parents of children in FWAS reported that since their children had been in the program they were doing better on their homework, learning new activities, looked forward to going to school and were getting in less trouble. |
| <u>Chicago After-School All Stars</u> | Jones, C.J. | June 2009 | Local/Program Level | A student evaluation utilizing data from three sources: an end-of year survey distributed to all 3rd through 8th grade students eligible to participate in the All Stars program; a Student Connection Survey, administered to all 6th through 12th grade students; and administrative data on student behavior, attendance and performance. | All Stars participation was found to result in fewer suspensions, fewer regular school-day absences and greater achievement gains. All Stars participants demonstrated a 14% reduction in absences, a 17% reduction in suspensions and greater reading and math achievement gains equivalent to .6 and .7 months of regular-school-day instruction respectively. |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
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| <u>Evaluation of the California-based Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning initiative (CORAL)</u> | Public/Private Ventures Arbretton, A., Sheldon, J., Bradshaw, M., Goldsmith, J., Jucovy, L. and Pepper, S. | February 2008 | Local/ Program Level | An evaluation of the CORAL project, an eight-year, \$58 million afterschool initiative of the James Irvine Foundation. Most students were elementary-school aged, more than half were English learners and 89% received free or reduced-price lunch. | Students experienced a range of benefits including high levels of participation and a strong sense of engagement, belonging and feeling safe. |
| <u>The Promising After-School Programs Study</u> | Vandell, D.L., Reisner, E.R. and Pierce, K.M. | October 2007 | Large Scale | A study of the effect of afterschool programs on nearly 3,000 low-income students at 35 high-quality afterschool programs across the nation. | The study found that regular participation was linked to reductions in behavior problems among disadvantaged students and led to significant gains in teachers' reports of students' improved social skills with peers. Teachers also reported reductions in misconduct over the two-year period and reduced use of drugs and alcohol, compared to those in the low supervision group. |
| <u>LA's BEST- Los Angeles, CA</u> | CRESST Huang, D. and Goldschmidt, P. | June 2007 | Local/ Program Level | A study that compared three groups of students from 1994 to 2003—approximately 2,300 who participated in the LA's BEST program, another 2,300 who attended schools offering LA's BEST programs but did not participate and 1,900 who attended demographically similar schools without LA's BEST programs – to assess the effect of the LA's BEST program on juvenile crime. | The study found that students who participated at a higher rate in LA's BEST had significantly lower incidences of juvenile crime. Also, the economic benefits of the program exceed its costs; every dollar invested in the LA's BEST program resulted in a savings in juvenile crime costs of approximately \$2.50. Researchers also found dropout rates among LA's BEST students to be significantly lower than the overall district dropout rate. |

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| <u>After-School Worries: Tough on Parents, Bad for Business</u> | Catalyst Gareis, K. and Barnett, R. | December 2006 | Large Scale | A study of 1,755 employee/parents at three Fortune 500 companies focused on assessing parental stress. | The study found that as many as 2.5 million parents are over-stressed by parental concern about afterschool time (PCAST) and are likely to bring their concerns to the office. PCAST makes mothers and fathers less productive at work and contributes to employee stress, costing businesses between \$50 billion and \$300 billion annually in lost productivity. |
| <u>Medical College of Georgia FitKid Project</u> | Yin, Z., Moore, J.B., Johnson, M.H., Barbeau, P., Canvar, M., Thornburg, J. and Gutin, B. | December 2005 | State Level | An evaluation of third-graders at 18 schools in Georgia, participating in afterschool programs using a fitness curriculum developed by the Medical College of Georgia, aimed at reducing obesity. | Researchers concluded that children who attended 40% or more of the afterschool sessions showed improvement in body fat percentage, bone mass density and cardiovascular fitness. |
| <u>Afterschool Program Participation and the Development of Childhood Obesity and Peer Acceptance</u> | Mahoney, J., Lord, L. and Carryl, E. | 2005 | Local/Program Level | A longitudinal study assessing the role of afterschool program participation in the development of childhood obesity and peer acceptance in 439 mostly low-income and minority children. | An examination of the impact of afterschool on obesity issues in three unnamed northeastern, urban, public schools found that controlling for baseline obesity, poverty status, and race and ethnicity, the prevalence of obesity was significantly lower for afterschool participants (21%) compared to nonparticipants (33%) at follow-up. |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
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| <p>YMCA of Greater New York’s Virtual Y Program – New York, NY</p> | <p>National Center for Schools and Communities at Fordham University</p> | <p>2005</p> | <p>Local/ Program Level</p> | <p>A report by The National Center for Schools and Communities at Fordham University presenting the results of seven years of evaluation for the YMCA of Greater New York’s Virtual Y afterschool program.</p> | <p>Teachers reported significant improvements in classroom behavior for <i>Virtual Y</i> participants, including large improvements in task motivation, frustration tolerance, learning skills, acting out, peer social skills, assertive social skills, shyness/ anxiety and on the overall behavior scale.</p> |
| <p>Support Our Students (SOS) – North Carolina</p> | <p>EDSTAR Johnson, J.L.</p> | <p>2005</p> | <p>State Level</p> | <p>An evaluation of North Carolina’s SOS program, which provides afterschool programs to over 16,000 students in the state.</p> | <p>The evaluation found a reduction in suspensions of participating students and better overall behavior.</p> |
| <p><u>The After-School Corporation (TASC) – New York, NY</u></p> | <p>Policy Studies Associates, Inc. Reisner, E.R., et. al.</p> | <p>November 2004</p> | <p>Local/ Program Level</p> | <p>An external evaluation of TASC that collected data spanning four school years from 96 TASC afterschool projects and their host schools in New York City.</p> | <p>TASC parents reported positive effects in their work lives: 60% said they missed less work than before because of the program; 59% said it supported them in keeping their job; and 54% said it allowed them to work more hours.</p> |
| <p><u>The Extended-Service Schools Initiative</u></p> | <p>Public/Private Ventures and Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation</p> | <p>June 2002</p> | <p>Large Scale</p> | <p>A large-scale evaluation of the Extended-School Day Service intensively focused on programs in a total of 10 schools in six cities.</p> | <p>The study found that students who participated in the afterschool programs experienced positive change in four key areas: staying out of trouble, improving school attitudes and behavior, strengthening social networks and improving their self-confidence.</p> |

| Study Subject | Author(s) | Date | Type of Study | Description | Key Findings |
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| Beacons Initiative - New York, NY | Academy for Educational Development | 2002 | Local/ Program Level | This report presents findings from an intensive study of six Beacon centers, the second phase of an evaluation of the New York City Beacons Initiative. | The vast majority of Beacon youth (85%) reported that it was 'always' or 'mostly true' that they felt safe at the Beacons. Also, 80% of youth who took part in intercept interviews described the Beacon as either 'very' or 'pretty helpful' in helping them avoid drug use. |
| LA's BEST - Los Angeles, CA | UCLA Center for the Study of Evaluation Huang, D., Kyung, S.K., Gribbons, B., Lee, C. and Baker, E.L. | June 2000 | Local/ Program Level | A decade-long, longitudinal study report and synthesis of research begun in 1990 to assess the impacts of participating in LA's BEST over a number of years. | Parents and children alike found the safety of the afterschool program superior to the safety within the neighborhood. Additionally, 3/4 of the parents indicated that they worried significantly less about their children's safety and that they had more energy in the evening. |